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Summary record of the 13 meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 20 October 1997, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. de Rojas ..... (Venezuela)
later: Mr. Abdellatif (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Egypt)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 99: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/51/636-E/1996/104, A/51/655-E/1996/105; A/52/39, A/52/112, A/52/114-E/1997/46, A/52/115-E/1997/47, A/52/318, A/52/447-S/1997/775)

(a) **Operational activities for development of the United Nations system** (A/52/413, A/52/431)

(b) **Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries** (A/52/400, A/52/402, A/52/413)

1. **The Chairman** said that the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania had requested a 24-hour extension of the deadline for the submission of draft proposals relating to sub-items 95 (a), (b) and (c) and an extension until Friday of the deadline for the submission of resolutions relating to sub-item 99 (a). If there was no objection he would take it that the Committee was in agreement.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey) said that Turkey had been implementing programmes of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) long before it had been recognized as a form of cooperation in the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action. As primarily a donor, but also a recipient country, Turkey was in a good position to understand the mechanics of such programmes.

4. For the period 1995-1996 Turkey had allocated $50 million for TCDC activities, which had been expanding with a view to including new local institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

5. Turkey was a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Council, organizations which emphasized the role of the private sector and the creation of a suitable environment for cooperation in a range of areas, including protection and conservation of the environment, in particular the Black Sea. To date over 80 bilateral agreements covering the economic, trade, scientific, industrial, technical and environmental fields had been signed with developing countries and countries in transition.

6. The major impediments to TCDC which Turkey had encountered were insufficient legislation and poorly designed agreements, overlapping responsibilities between major and sectoral institutions, limited funds and long bureaucratic procedures for the utilization of national funds for TCDC, a shortage of skilled personnel, weak national focal points and limited experience of technical cooperation.

7. His delegation wished to offer recommendations and comments for the better integration of TCDC in the United Nations system. Firstly, closer cooperation was required, through the Resident Coordinator, between national TCDC focal points and UNDP offices. Secondly, the identification of centres of excellence and the selection of projects by the Special Unit would be a positive step. Thirdly, cooperation among United Nations agencies was essential to facilitating TCDC at all levels.

8. **Mr. Fowler** (Canada) said that the current discussions were taking place at a crucial phase in the evolution of the development programmes and activities of the United Nations. Just as national Governments were adapting to the forces of globalization (accelerated technological development and trade liberalization) and to the expanding role of the private sector in international economic relations and in national development efforts, international development institutions must also adapt to those changes.

9. The funds and programmes of the United Nations had made significant strides in improving their effectiveness, and the reforms and recommendations announced by the Secretary-General in July represented an extension of those efforts. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's endeavours in that regard.

10. Once the General Assembly had concluded its deliberations on the second track of the United Nations reform, following through on the promise of reform would fall to the boards of the funds and programmes, as well as to the Economic and Social Council and to the Second Committee, which, in 1998, would embark on the triennial review of operational activities.

11. Strengthening United Nations activities at the country level was and must remain a priority for all. He therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's emphasis on field level coordination, the strengthening of the resident coordinator system and the establishment of United Nations development assistance frameworks. He was also encouraged by the steps already taken in those and other areas by United Nations funds and programmes. Nevertheless, coordination and cooperation among those bodies was not sufficient; there was a need for coordination and cooperation with the United Nations specialized agencies and with the World Bank and regional development banks, so that the limited development resources of the system could be used as effectively as possible.

12. A second priority was to pursue the rationalization of United Nations operations, both at Headquarters and in the field, particularly with regard to administrative costs. Nevertheless, his delegation did not equate such reform with mere cost-cutting or with a reduction of the United Nations development role: savings generated through the sharing of field premises or through administrative efficiencies should be used to increase resources devoted to field activities.

13. The final aspect was the fundamental question of funding for United Nations development activities. Canada recognized the problems created for the funds and programmes by the unpredictability of their core financing. Member States should explore ways of providing secure and predictable funding for United Nations development activities. The funds and programmes should consider the possibility of adopting the multi-year funding schemes suggested by the Secretary-General.

14. Canada also recognized that the question of the security and predictability of financing could not be considered in isolation from concerns about the overall adequacy of funding levels. In that respect, the Committee's discussions on new sources of funding, including the private sector, and on equitable burden-sharing, were of crucial relevance.

15. In encouraging serious consideration of those questions, however, Canada did not seek to evade concerns about recent trends in the level of funding from traditional major donors. Like most industrialized countries, Canada had been forced to take fiscal measures which had led to cuts in the budgets of basic domestic programmes and in official development assistance (ODA), including contributions to United Nations funds and programmes. However, that situation did not reflect a weakening of Canada's commitment to development assistance or to the United Nations development system.

16. The funds and programmes to which Canada had contributed over $5 billion over the past 40 years remained a high priority. In sum, Canada had been a prominent supporter of the United Nations development effort since its inception and had every intention of remaining so.

17. **Mr. Abdellatif** (Egypt) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In his report to the Economic and Social Council (E/1997/65/Add.1) and his report on funding modalities of operational activities (A/52/431), the Secretary-General indicated that there had been a sharp decline in ODA and core resources. If that trend continued, it would have grave consequences for the United Nations and for the recipient countries. It was therefore necessary to seek other funding modalities, either a burden-sharing arrangement among Member States, or the mobilization of financial markets, but the new sources must always be politically acceptable. The establishment of the Office for Development Financing and the efforts made by the Secretary-General to establish a new and innovative system of financing were commendable, although it was not clear if all that would be feasible or how it would operate in practice.

18. At all events, the additional resources should complement the core resources. The debates on the new funding modalities had to be kept within the parameters of neutrality, multilaterality, predictability and security on which the Member States had agreed by consensus in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations funds and programmes.

19. **Mr. Pérez Otermin** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the associated States of Bolivia and Chile, said that for those countries operational activities for development and international cooperation were matters of great political concern. As a consequence of the process of globalization and liberalization of international trade in recent decades and the effects of the decline in official development assistance and the direct impact of both on their economies, those countries felt that there was a need to combine their knowledge and draw on the experience gained by other developing countries, adapting it for their own purposes.

20. MERCOSUR, which was a vibrant example of South-South subregional commercial integration, had adopted technical cooperation as a fundamental tool in that process to facilitate the flow of resources of all types so as to improve the productive apparatus, infrastructure and level of well-being of the population of those countries. The new concepts of international cooperation should include, in addition to the traditional demands, those relating to the process of incorporation into the international economy and the progress made in the restoration and progressive consolidation of democracy. It would also be necessary to include the redefinition of the function of the State and its decentralization and modernization, as well as the restructuring of its production sectors, environmental problems and technological progress.

21. The MERCOSUR countries supported the reform measures approved by the UNDP Executive Board in May 1997 and took a positive view of the Secretary-General's proposals designed to improve coordination and decentralize

the decision-making process for operational activities for development within the United Nations system, including the strengthening of the work of the Resident Coordinator. Decentralization could serve to further rationalize resources and facilitate administrative management in the field, since national offices would have greater autonomy in negotiating directly with the Governments of the recipient countries and evaluating projects.

22. The MERCOSUR countries supported the strategy proposed by the UNDP Administrator of seeking non-core resources and non-traditional sources in view of the constant decline in funds for international cooperation for development. The experiment of cost-sharing carried out by the MERCOSUR countries had yielded excellent results and other countries should be invited to consider that practice too.

23. Governments should play a leading role in the coordination of the cooperation received, adapting it to their priorities and specificities. National execution should continue to be applied in a flexible manner and Governments should be allowed to monitor international cooperation programmes closely, in accordance with the criterion of national "ownership". Country strategy notes should continue to be drawn up on a voluntary basis, depending on each Government's perception of the advantages or disadvantages of their formulation.

24. The community of donor countries must fulfil the commitments they had undertaken and make voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations fund. Core resources were vital catalysts of human and financial resources for the programmes of cooperation for development, but at the same time it was necessary to seek new sources of financing and continue to promote South-South cooperation, cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions, and triangular cooperation.

25. Greater thematic clarity was needed in the activities of the various United Nations bodies in order to ensure more effective use of resources for international cooperation. That should not serve as a pretext, however, for a reduction in financial assistance to certain countries or areas. Nearly two decades had gone by since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the member States of MERCOSUR, which had made considerable progress in that area, had reaffirmed the validity of that approach in multilateral forums and had used it as a key element in their drive towards integration.

26. On the eve of the new century, which appeared to be marked by growth without equity, an uncertain unemployment situation and the proliferation of conflicts, it was essential to preserve the principle of universality and the right of all developing countries without exception to benefit from cooperation and international technical assistance in order to achieve the sustainable development to which they aspired.

27. **Mr. Chand** (Nepal) said that his delegation subscribed to the statement made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and was in general agreement with the seven recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in its report (A/51/636), whose purpose was to make development cooperation more effective and efficient. As the JIU had indicated, the usefulness of a country strategy note (CSN) diminished if it did not significantly reduce the frequency, costs and workloads entailed in the development of country programmes of international organizations. Furthermore, in countries with significant structural adjustment programmes, the CSN could either be dispensed with, or a new CSN process could be designed. The recommendation that the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) should update the policy and operational parameters of the CSN was a timely one and should be accepted.

28. Field-level coordination committees should be used more systematically, with technical inputs from headquarters, regional and subregional offices, as mechanisms for policy dialogue and for the integrated development of country and sectoral programmes. It was also essential to give coherence to the numerous policy and programming frameworks employed by external development partners.

29. Least developed countries which were also landlocked needed full support not only from the countries of the North but also from their stronger partners in the South and, in that regard, South-South cooperation assumed even greater importance. Nepal had actively participated in various meetings, including the South-South conference on finance, trade and investment, the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries and the tenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which were becoming ever more desirable and useful, particularly in the context of shrinking official development assistance (ODA). The general understanding reached at the high-level meeting deserved the Committee's full consideration and support. Within the framework of South-South cooperation, the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries should be directed to the benefit of the

weakest link in the South, namely, the group of least developed countries.

30. The current funding modality for core resources for operational activities for development needed to be changed, since it had failed to generate adequate resources to successfully carry out country programmes. A new modality could evolve only with strong political will on the part of Member States, particularly the donor countries. It was necessary to devise a funding system that would make financial resources available to development programmes on an assured and predictable basis, which was a prerequisite for the sustainable development of the least developed countries. Nepal therefore supported the Secretary-General's recommendation for the establishment of a new system of core resources consisting of voluntary contributions and negotiated pledges to be appropriated in multi-year tranches for the funding of operational activities for development.

31. *Mr. Abdellatif (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

32. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that his delegation subscribed to the statement made by the representative of Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that economic and technical cooperation among developing countries was a key element in the execution of operational activities for development whose potential was not fully tapped. Senegal firmly believed in such cooperation and had therefore participated in the tenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, at which it had made a presentation on the experiences of Senegal in that field.

33. The exchange of know-how and experiences was the very essence of cooperation among developing countries, since it clearly offered effective, sustainable and less expensive solutions in numerous sectors. Emphasis should therefore be placed on such instruments as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Caracas Plan of Action and the San José Plan of Action, as well as on the Bandung Framework for Asia-Africa Cooperation, which expressed the needs of developing countries in the area of South-South cooperation. It would also be an appropriate time to undertake an in-depth study of ways of expanding and developing the formula for decentralized cooperation through the twinning of cities and villages.

34. The mechanism of triangular cooperation also held promise as a strategy for promoting effective cooperation among developing countries. The initiative currently being promoted at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development was yet another example of that mechanism which deserved to be supported.

35. South-South cooperation should complement but not replace North-South cooperation, since the strengthening by the North of the South's capacities benefited all development partners. Senegal, as both a provider and beneficiary of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, collaborated with numerous partners in the implementation of development projects and its experience in that regard indicated that such projects could be executed with greater efficiency. To that end, with the active support of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), both developing and donor countries should be encouraged to make greater use of South-South cooperation for the execution of projects; support should be given to national coordination centres in order to take advantage of available national expertise; assistance should be provided for the establishment of regional and subregional centres of excellence; and, finally, periodic meetings should be held between national coordination centres for the exchange of experiences. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the establishment within UNDP of a voluntary trust fund for the promotion of South-South cooperation and hoped that the Executive Board of UNDP would endorse decision 10/2 of the High-level Committee, which requested an appropriate increase in the volume of resources allocated for the promotion of such cooperation.

36. **Mr. Ciobanu** (Moldova) said that technical assistance was just as important to his Government as large-scale investments. Moldova was therefore most grateful for the presence and activities in the country of United Nations agencies, and for the activities of other agencies which also provided assistance. Those agencies had worked together to help Moldova by following a common approach and working in an integrated manner. In practical terms, that collaboration was the embryo of a "UN House", which was one of the several reforms of the United Nations system proposed by the Secretary-General.

37. In that context, his delegation welcomed the reform proposals, especially those pertaining to the United Nations Development Group, as well as the establishment at the country level of a "UN House", with all funds and programmes being part of a single United Nations office under a resident coordinator, as well as the establishment of an Office of Development Financing in order to increase core resources for development activities.

38. The assistance of the United Nations had been instrumental in helping the Republic of Moldova to deal with the problems arising from its transition. The country had received technical assistance for the transformation of its

political system and its economic system, all of which had put its independence on a sure footing.

39. The Republic of Moldova attached great importance to the concept of technical cooperation among developing countries, and was pleased to report that it had hosted three regional conferences on such important subjects as trade among the former Soviet republics, the promotion of women and human rights. It took note of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and supported many of its recommendations, including the idea that a regional approach to such cooperation increased the chances of success.

40. Nevertheless, his country required further assistance, especially in the area of trade. It needed markets for its products, and that would require technical assistance to make the products competitive. It therefore hoped that special assistance could be considered for small countries, starting with substantial funding to upgrade human resources.

41. His delegation thanked UNDP, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic countries for the increased resources being provided and for the strengthening of the local UNDP office, and renewed the promise that the Republic of Moldova would use the funds received wisely.

42. **Ms. Hormilla** (Cuba), associating her delegation with the statements made by Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that increased efficiency on the part of the United Nations system of operational activities would require a substantial increase in funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the needs of the recipient countries. The steady decline of official development assistance and core contributions to funds and programmes was very disquieting. It was thus extremely important for donor countries to meet the targets for core resources. Also of concern were the new trends discernible in that area. The fundamental characteristics of United Nations operational activities must be preserved, as must their universal and voluntary nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, despite the new funding modalities that were gaining ground.

43. Likewise, it must be underscored that the recipient Governments had the central role in coordinating operational activities for development, which should aim to complement the development efforts of the developing countries themselves, in accordance with each nation's policies, needs, plans and priorities, and which in no instance should be used as a means of imposing conditions or development models. The increasing involvement of UNDP in activities related to election monitoring or human rights, for instance, was distancing it from its mandate in the area of development.

44. Cuba fully supported the positions of the Group of 77 and China on the future of the United Nations system of operational activities and believed that the reforms to be put into effect should not alter the nature of the work the United Nations was doing in the countries of the Group, for it represented a comparative advantage for those countries and their best asset.

45. **Ms. Khuro** (Pakistan), endorsing the statement of Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that operational activities for development by the various United Nations funds and programmes had made a significant contribution to the realization of development objectives. Nevertheless, there were a number of challenges facing the United Nations in the area of development cooperation and Pakistan believed that all necessary measures should be adopted to enhance the overall efficiency of the funds.

46. The key obstacle to cooperation for development was the decline in voluntary contributions to core resources. Thus, in his programme for reform (A/51/950), the Secretary-General had made several proposals to increase resources for the United Nations development activities. While Pakistan favoured the recommendation for the establishment of a new system of core resources consisting of voluntary contributions and multi-year negotiated pledges, it would like to know where such a decision would be taken and what the time frame was.

47. Another proposal to establish a development account funded by savings from management efficiencies was welcome but was clearly insufficient to resolve the funding issue.

48. With regard to Action 11 (a) (A/51/950, p. 56), Pakistan awaited further details on the proposed burden-sharing arrangement designed to increase core resources. Action 11 (b) regarding the establishment of an Office for Development Financing was welcome, but certain aspects needed further elaboration. First, there must be a careful cost-benefit analysis of the resources to be allocated to that Office and the funds it was expected to generate. Secondly, it might be possible for the international community to encourage the funds and programmes to deploy innovative mechanisms and modalities to generate resources. Thirdly, the real capacity of the private sector to provide resources that were predictable, continuous, assured, universal, neutral and commensurate with the increasing needs of the developing countries had to be ascertained.

49. The cause of the decline in voluntary contributions to core resources lay in the lack of political will on the part of donors and the preference for donor-driven projects.

50. Furthermore, the trend towards privatization of development cooperation raised serious concerns. Capital investments sought high rates of return and were rarely made out of altruistic motives. Even if one accepted that such investment could be geared towards development, the unpredictability and volatility of such a funding modality made it highly unreliable.

51. Pakistan welcomed the proposal to establish a United Nations Development Assistance Framework. However, it would bring the desired results only if the coordination capacity of the recipient country was enhanced. It should not be overlooked that such a framework would require the approval of Governments.

52. Lastly, the cooperation between United Nations funds and programmes and the Bretton Woods institutions should be viewed with great caution. In deciding upon specific coordination mechanisms, it must be ensured that the United Nations Development Group conducted its work in accordance with its own mandates and principles of universality and neutrality. Any imposition of conditions by the Bretton Woods institutions on projects being carried out by the United Nations development bodies should be strictly avoided.

53. **Mr. Nishigahiro** (Japan) said that the operational activities of the United Nations were taking on a new cast since the adoption of the Agenda for Development, for official development assistance remained stagnant and the core resources of funds and programmes were decreasing. It was of utmost importance to reverse those trends, but it was also imperative for the operational activities of the United Nations system to make full use of their comparative advantages, namely neutrality, impartiality, and a worldwide network and high level of expertise. The activities must at the same time produce a maximum impact on the development of the developing countries. For that reason, and in the light of the "new development strategy", whose basic philosophy embraced the ownership of the development process by the developing countries and a genuine cooperation based on a global partnership, it was important to examine the impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system, their funding, and South-South cooperation.

54. With regard to the strengthening of the impact of operational activities, capacity-building was the key to the sustainability of development. Since the United Nations had comparative advantages in that area, its operational activities should focus primarily on capacity-building. Throughout its long history of cooperation his country had encouraged the recipient countries to take due responsibility for the management and implementation of cooperation projects, in order to ensure that they would then be able to sustain the projects independently.

55. Another issue which must be taken into account in enhancing the impact of operational activities was the systematic coordination of the activities of funds and programmes in order to avoid duplication. The resident coordinator system was very important in that respect, for it made full use of the country strategy note at the field level. His delegation also welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish the United Nations Development Group, which was expected to function along those lines. However, it was important for the country strategy note and the programme approach to be governed by the principles established in the national development policies and plans of the programme countries, so that they would feel themselves masters of the development process.

56. The evaluation of operational activities was also of the utmost importance, and his delegation therefore expected that the Secretariat would make a comprehensive evaluation of the funds and programmes, including the quantitative and qualitative aspects, with the participation of the programme countries. The results of such an evaluation should be accurately reflected in the triennial policy review of operational activities for development, which the Committee would undertake in 1998.

57. With regard to the funding of operational activities, official development assistance continued to play a very important role in the provision of social services and helped to create an environment conducive to development. At the same time the participation of the private sector in development was gaining in significance. Modalities for inducing the private sector to participate more actively in development cooperation should be explored. But the private sector could not be regarded solely as a provider of resources; its expertise and its advantages must also be used.

58. In the light of the recent increase of non-core resources in comparison with core resources, it would be useful to have a thorough examination of the reasons for that preference and to seek means of developing a more responsive mechanism and formulating guidelines for the use of core resources.

59. In that connection his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to use the savings resulting from the reforms for development purposes.

60. South-South cooperation, especially its new dimension of triangular cooperation, was one of the most important tools for advancing development cooperation based on a global partnership.

61. **Mr. Kebede** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation fully supported the statement made by the representative of Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and expressed its appreciation for the assistance furnished to Ethiopia by the various United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

62. After instituting a federal form of government in 1995 Ethiopia had reorganized its development management system and had assigned responsibility for priority-setting and programme execution to the regions and local communities. In collaboration with the World Bank it had developed sectoral strategies which facilitated the participation of development partners in several areas. Given the variety of the procedures used by the agencies of the United Nations system, there was a need to create mechanisms for the effective and coordinated intervention of United Nations funds and programmes in a country's development process.

63. Since the triennial policy review of operational activities for development would have to be undertaken in 1998, his delegation wished to state that it was committed to the effective implementation of the national execution modality referred to in General Assembly resolution 50/120. Significant progress had been made in his country over the past few years in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 44/211, 47/199 and 50/120 concerning the operational activities of the United Nations system. In the light of its experience in that area, Ethiopia believed that all the agencies should adopt the national execution modality, for it was the most effective means of promoting the sustainability of development. It was a matter for concern that some agencies had appealed for a limit to the use of that modality. Instead of citing the poor absorption capacity of the recipient countries, an effort should be made to strengthen the national evaluation capacity, simplify procedures and reporting requirements, and bring them into line with national systems. Accordingly, his delegation called upon the Executive Committee on Development Operations to facilitate a common understanding of the concept of the national execution modality and immediately prepare the relevant guidelines.

64. The operational activities of the United Nations should be based on the execution of programmes formulated in accordance with the development policy of each country, and all the United Nations agencies working in that area should understand that the programmes must be driven, managed and owned by the countries themselves.

65. It was also worrying that the various guidelines, procedures and processes hindered the timely disbursement of funds, thus imposing a further constraint on the absorption capacity of the programme countries and also delaying programme start-up, with the result that some of the funds remained unused and were carried forward to the next year.

66. The number of countries seeking United Nations support to solve their specific economic and social problems was increasing. However, given the decline in official development assistance and core funds for development activities, the chances of satisfying financial requirements with available funds were decreasing. It was necessary to meet overseas development assistance targets, improve co-financing arrangements, expand the donor base and supplement core funds.

67. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), speaking also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, associated himself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and said that the international community should realize the importance of United Nations operational activities at the country level. The process of reforming the United Nations system should seek to reinforce the impact of those activities and strengthen the role of the Organization in that respect. He welcomed the Secretary-General's recognition in his proposals that the arrangements for financing operational activities for development needed to be reviewed. However, although it was necessary to seek new ways of financing operational activities for development, that did not mean that traditional financing arrangements could be discarded.

68. Finance for operational activities for development should be predictable, continuous and assured, and should be commensurate with the increasing needs of the developing countries. Those activities had a great impact at the individual level, particularly for those on lower incomes in the recipient countries. In that context, operational activities for development made a significant contribution to the eradication of poverty.

69. He was concerned at the continuing decline in core funds for development activities. That trend had been accompanied by an increase in non-core funds, which,

however, could not be considered a substitute for core funds and, furthermore, could not be used as flexibly.

70. With regard to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, he fully agreed that it was an indispensable strategic modality for promoting international cooperation for development. In that context, the strengthening of economic and technical cooperation and, ultimately, South-South cooperation was of great importance to developing countries. South-South cooperation was an essential mechanism for increasing the pace of economic growth and development, as well as the self-sufficiency of the developing countries. It was therefore necessary to maximize the benefits of that modality of cooperation.

71. **Mr. Meyer** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the implementation of the reform measures announced by the Secretary-General had already had a positive impact on the issues referred to in General Assembly resolution 50/120 and had contributed to strengthening the United Nations presence in the field. He particularly welcomed the creation of the United Nations Development Group and fully supported the Secretary-General's other proposals to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations operational activities, which were to be found in the report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950).

72. The European Union had already stressed the importance it attached to strengthening the system of resident coordinators. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework was a vital element for improving coordination in the Organization. The need for national capacity-building in the developing countries in all areas relating to the management of development should also be emphasized. In that context, special attention should be paid to the process of national execution and monitoring. Similarly, it was important to assess the impact of operational activities. The results of the first experiments in the joint use of services and facilities were encouraging. He was confident that those factors would be suitably analysed during the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development in 1998.

73. He was gratified at the high quality of the debate at the series of meetings on operational activities during the most recent session of the Economic and Social Council, and he welcomed the special attention due to be paid in the following year, in the context of the triennial policy review, to issues such as the delegation of authority and decision-making in the field and to the establishment of a more coordinated and comprehensive approach, both in the field and at headquarters, to the assessment and monitoring of operational activities and to improving coordination of activities by the United Nations system at the regional, subregional and local levels. It was necessary to strengthen the links between the normative activities and the operational activities of the United Nations, whose primary objective should continue to be the fight against poverty.

74. The European Union accounted for approximately 58 per cent of official development assistance contributed by member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and devoted special attention to activities for eradicating poverty. Likewise, the member States of the European Union were collectively the major donors of funds for United Nations operational activities and were prepared to make even greater efforts to reverse the downward trend in the percentage of gross national product devoted to official development assistance.

75. With regard to development financing, the governing bodies of funds and programmes were requested to take decisions on their respective financial arrangements in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 in order to take the best possible advantage of discussions in those forums. He took note of the suggestions made by the Secretary-General on development financing in his report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), which would be considered briefly by the General Assembly.

76. **Ms. Amorim** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that the position of UNESCO with regard to the financing of operational activities for development was a function of three major recent trends: the decline in official development assistance, the increase in private investment in developing countries and the wider social and human dimension of development.

77. The impact of the realization that development was inconceivable without its human dimension and a milieu of peace, democracy, good governance and environmental protection had, along with the decline in official development assistance, been felt throughout the United Nations system. The effects had also been felt, including in UNESCO, of the clear decline in regular-budget funding for operational activities for development and the increase of extrabudgetary funding. That trend carried the risk of making the specialized agencies more vulnerable to conditionalities imposed by bilateral donors. It was therefore of crucial importance that funding of both types, core and non-core, should be increased, which would require greater trust and partnership between the intergovernmental machinery and the governing bodies of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system.

78. During the meeting of the Executive Board of UNESCO in October, some member States had considered it important to be careful and to follow strict rules regarding the question of private funding of operational activities for development while others had commended that type of funding and called for its enhancement. She believed that new funding modalities were important in the context of United Nations reform but that it was essential not to lose sight of the importance of intergovernmental machinery.

79. The specialized agencies had an irreplaceable role to play in the new situation thanks to their contacts with development authorities at the national and local levels, their good relations with intellectual and academic communities at the international level and the fact that they benefited from a degree of autonomy and independence which did not exist in most financial institutions. Increased attention by the international community to specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, in the area of operational activities would reinforce their response capacity and attract complementary funds for development projects. The links between funds, programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions were also very timely. UNESCO had always understood development in the broad sense of improvement of the quality of life, meaning better education, food security, health, respect for human rights, democracy, the sustainable use of resources and the establishment of a culture of peace. The achievement of those goals should be the focus of the partnership linking the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions.

80. **Mr. March** (Australia) said that, while the operational activities for development were the "can-do" mechanism of the United Nations development process, to which Australia and many other countries, including several developing countries, made annual contributions, it was nevertheless necessary to consider the effectiveness of the activities and expenditures to date and apply the insights gained to future development programmes and activities.

81. His Government was concerned because the discussion of development financing revealed a preoccupation with the amount of funding available and because there was not nearly enough consideration of the critical aspects of effective utilization of funds at the operational level. To be purposeful, any examination of development financing must address aid impact and aid effectiveness issues.

82. His Government's primary interest in that regard was to enhance United Nations development activities to ensure that official development assistance was used as effectively as possible to reduce poverty. The Secretary-General's proposals were an important way to do that. There was also a need for increased consistency between the operational activities and the economic and social policies developed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Those policies had to permeate the strategies and actions of the United Nations development agencies. Recent measures implemented by the Secretary-General, including the formation of the United Nations Development Group, were important steps to assist the various development agencies to work more cooperatively, harmoniously and productively.

83. It being at the country level that cooperation was most critical in order to maximize the impact of United Nations development programmes, he supported proposals for common development assistance frameworks, better harmonization of the United Nations development agencies' actions, and the common servicing of those agencies. He endorsed the Joint Inspection Unit's remarks in that regard. His delegation was prepared to participate in a balanced process that addressed both operational activities funding and its effective utilization. However, it would not support a process that pursued one aspect in isolation. It considered that the full implementation of the Secretary-General's proposals and of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/120 would do much to strengthen the operational activities for funding. If the General Assembly held a session devoted to financing for development, it should consider both of the aforementioned aspects.

84. **Mr. Rebeira** (Singapore) said that his country associated itself with the statement made by Thailand. Globalization was inevitable and irreversible, with both positive and negative consequences for developed and developing countries.

85. The representative of Malaysia in his statement on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations had touched upon, among other things, the currency crisis that had affected several South-East Asian countries despite the different conditions in those countries. The crisis had been the result of weak financial sectors, unsustainable macroeconomic policies, large trade account deficits and an inflexible exchange rate regime too closely linked to the United States dollar. There had been over-investment in property with borrowed offshore money. As property investments were essentially consumption with no productive returns, when the dollar had strengthened and exports and property prices had fallen, financial institutions and currencies had been in jeopardy. The financial crisis had started in Thailand, spread to the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, and even the currencies of Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore had been affected. Singapore had not suffered too much because fund managers knew that it had an established financial sector, yearly budget and current

account surpluses, zero foreign debt and strong reserves of over $80 billion. Furthermore, its banks had the highest credit ratings in Asia.

86. Since the basic conditions for rapid growth still remained, the South-East Asian countries could overcome their setbacks within a few years provided their Governments addressed the weaknesses in their macroeconomic and fiscal policies as well as those in their financial institutions and systems. Furthermore, they should keep in mind that income from savings and loans had to be channelled into productive investments. In nearly every case, the root cause of the recent crisis had been political and not just economic. Early warning signals had been ignored and remedies postponed while attempts had been made to intervene politically in the market. South-East Asian countries were now closely integrated into the world's financial markets and subject to their disciplines, and they therefore needed to control their macroeconomic policies. The crisis would force most countries to liberalize their economies and become more market-oriented.

87. The connection between all the foregoing and United Nations operational activities for development was that there was no alternative to joining the global economy and the real issue was how to help the less developed countries acquire the resources they needed to build the institutions, train the personnel and formulate the policies needed for that purpose. In that respect, his delegation attached great importance to both technical and economic cooperation among developing countries and was prepared to work closely with the United Nations and all its Member States in the common endeavour to help those countries.

88. **Ms. Alva** (India) said that her delegation associated itself with the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 on operational activities for development. India attached great importance to operational activities for development and viewed with concern attempts to shift resources away from technical and project cooperation to normative and monitoring activities. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on funding modalities of operational activities (A/52/431), she said that although India supported enhanced coordination and the reduction of administrative overheads, it considered that the key to enhanced effectiveness lay in considerably increased, stable, secure and predictable levels of funding linked to the programme requirements of the funds and programmes, while retaining their voluntary, official, multilateral and universal character. India was deeply concerned about the sharp decline in the core resources of UNDP, UNFPA and WFP between 1991 and 1997, as indicated in the report. The only exception was UNFPA, whose funding had increased until 1995, although it had declined since then. There was a need to consider in detail whether the current modalities for generating contributions for the programmes and the new requirements arising from the recent global conferences were adequate. Moreover, the preliminary consideration of new and innovative modalities for funding global development requirements carried out at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council indicated that much more clarity was needed on the link between any new funding modality and new and innovative funding ideas.

89. Another important feature of the funding of operational activities for development was the increase in non-core and earmarked resources, especially in the case of UNDP. In that context the suggestion in the report of the Secretary-General that it might be useful to examine the rationale prompting some countries to favour non-core funding deserved attention with a view to drawing on lessons learnt and evolving a more responsive mechanism and programme policies in core funding areas.

90. India believed that the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries should be a priority aspect of operational activities and had participated fully in the tenth meeting of the High-level Committee on Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. It also welcomed initiatives such as the establishment of the Trust Fund for South-South cooperation and the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries by the UNDP Executive Board; those resources should be increased.

91. **Mr. Reva** (Ukraine) said that his delegation noted with satisfaction that the universal, voluntary and grant nature of operational activities for development, as well as their neutrality and multilateralism, had been confirmed in the Agenda for Development. It also took note of the reforms undertaken in UNDP and other United Nations funds and programmes to increase their response capacity, effectiveness and accountability. It was very encouraging that UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations funds and programmes, while according priority attention to the needs of the least developed countries, in particular those from sub-Saharan Africa, had increased their presence in countries with economies in transition so as to facilitate their integration into the world economic system, which was an important complement to the efforts of the countries themselves. The countries of Eastern and Central Europe, including Ukraine, intended to expand their cooperation with the bodies concerned with United Nations operational activities for development and to that end had gradually increased their support for the funding of those activities.

92. His delegation commended the measures taken to reform UNDP and streamline and harmonize the operational activities of the United Nations system in the field of development. The new programming process initiated by UNDP in 1997 had resulted in the adoption of country cooperation frameworks for many countries and regional cooperation frameworks for all the regions of the world. The UNDP Executive Board would take up at its next session the first global cooperation framework which would include high-priority projects for poverty eradication, the advancement of women, environmental protection, good governance, etc. In implementing those ambitious concepts, it would be necessary to strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation between the agencies working in the same areas in order to eliminate duplication and unnecessary competition.

93. In that context, Ukraine attached great importance to the agreements concluded between UNDP, IMF and other agencies aimed at achieving more coherent policies, particularly in the spheres of economic growth, sustainable human development, market-oriented reforms and transition.

94. It must be ensured that the resources for operational activities for development were secure and predictable. The improvement of technical assistance machinery in general and the implementation of such modalities as national execution and involvement of the private sector and other non-traditional donors could substantially contribute to solving that problem and make United Nations operational activities more attractive to traditional donors.

95. Even with limited resources, it was possible to achieve greater efficiency and tangible results, first and foremost at the field level. In that regard, cost-sharing was as important as the sharing of experience, not only in terms of technical cooperation among developing countries, but also within other mechanisms, including interregional cooperation. More had to be done to decentralize the entire United Nations operational activities system; emphasis should be placed on strengthening the resident coordinator network, taking into account national priorities.

96. His delegation was pleased that the first country cooperation framework for Ukraine had been adopted recently by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. His Government fully supported the concept of that programme, which concentrated on structural reforms, human development and improved environmental management.

97. Despite persistent economic difficulties, his Government intended to make its second voluntary contribution to support UNDP activities in Ukraine.

98. His delegation hoped that the reform programme proposed by the Secretary-General, complemented by the changes in UNDP and the measures taken within the context of General Assembly resolution 50/227 and other relevant decisions, would lay a solid basis for further improvement of United Nations activities in the field.

99. **Mr. Tanasescu** (Romania) said that his delegation endorsed the statement made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. The debate in the Committee on operational activities for development was taking place in the context of the debate in the plenary session of the General Assembly on the reform proposals made by the Secretary-General in July 1997.

100. Romania supported the key elements of cooperation for development contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/950), the main thrust of which was to make the multilateral assistance of the United Nations system more coherent and more efficient and ensure better coordination within the system and with other international institutions.

101. Some of the measures adopted by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA on the management of change were consistent with the Secretary-General's proposals: improved coordination at the country level, decentralization, and more efficient use of resources. The process of change initiated by UNDP must take account of the Secretary-General's new proposals. Romania agreed on the need for continuity between conception-related activities at Headquarters and execution-related activities at the country and regional levels. Decision-making at every level should be based on the experience gained from the implementation of activities.

102. The debates during the third regular session of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA showed that there were two realities in the area of financing: the insufficiency of resources and the existence of significant unutilized resources. The efficient use of resources should be based on the needs of recipient countries and on their capacity of absorption.

103. He recalled the proposal made by the Executive Director of UNFPA concerning the review in 1999 of the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and noted that a comprehensive exchange of views on the content and duration of that process could help prevent a repetition of the general frustration experienced during the special session devoted to Agenda 21.

104. The Cairo Programme of Action recognized the specific needs of countries with economies in transition for assistance. The first three years of the Programme's

implementation in Romania and in other countries of the region had confirmed the importance of multilateral assistance, especially in the fields of reproductive health and family planning.

105. Romania's experience as a member of various executive boards of United Nations funds and programmes allowed it to state that the reform process and the management of change in UNDP offered an excellent opportunity for the General Assembly to determine whether the work of those bodies responded to the needs of Member States or offered clear guidance to Secretariat staff.

106. The increased participation of country teams in the proceedings of executive boards, which Romania supported, had led to a better understanding of the specific characteristics of each country and the complexity of the delivery activities at the country level and had highlighted important aspects of the activities of resident coordinators.

107. A number of other questions also needed further consideration. First, it was necessary to streamline the activities of executive boards by including in their agenda only those items that were relevant to the main purpose of the funds and programmes in question. Items related essentially to micro-management or to technicalities were detrimental to the consideration of main agenda items and to policy making. Second, there was need for improved use and follow-up of General Assembly resolutions and of their own executive board decisions by United Nations funds and programmes. A legal adviser for each executive board could perhaps correct the current situation. Third, each executive board should have medium- and long-term programmes of work to avoid the repeated inclusion of items in the agenda of sessions.

108. **Mr. Aass** (Norway) said that declining contributions limited the capacity of the United Nations system to fulfil its general mandate and the special challenges arising from the recent series of United Nations conferences. The Norwegian Government was deeply concerned by the current low level of official development assistance, which affected in particular the least developed countries. Member States must assume their responsibility to ensure sufficient, predictable and stable funding.

109. Even though much remained to be done to improve the work of the United Nations system in the social and economic sectors and to enhance coordination and cooperation among its agencies, particularly at the country level, several steps had already been taken to improve the system's effectiveness: a new governing structure had been introduced for the funds and programmes; the Secretary-General's reform proposals were a step in the right direction; and some United Nations organizations had embarked on a comprehensive reorganization process in response to the changed environment.

110. Unfortunately, those positive changes had not attracted additional core contributions. Instead, there was a tendency to earmark contributions for specific purposes, thereby endangering the true multilateral character of the United Nations system. In a situation of growing demand for improved governance and efficiency in its development work, progress by the United Nations system in that direction required increased resources on a stable and predictable basis.

111. The decline in official development assistance had increased the imbalance among donor countries with respect to their contributions to the United Nations system. It could not be taken for granted that a limited number of donor countries, of which Norway was one, would continue to assume greater responsibility for the financing of development activities.

112. Norway would welcome a funding system that contributed to equitable burden sharing among Member States, ensured the predictability and continuity of contributions and encouraged broader responsibility for the financing of United Nations activities. The Organization's administrative costs should be shared by all its Members and a clear link should be established between programme activities and funding. A model for funding based on a system of assessed, negotiated and voluntary contributions would meet those concerns. Norway would have welcomed a proposal in the Secretary-General's reform package to make assessed contributions a part of the financing of the United Nations, but a system of negotiated and voluntary contributions was a step in the right direction.

113. While acknowledging the important role of official aid in development, Norway welcomed the establishment of an Office of Development Financing to look further into new and innovative ways of financing development activities. However, funds raised from such sources must not replace, but rather be additional to official development assistance. The many proposals for innovative financing mechanisms which had been put forward in recent years merited consideration (taxes on aviation fuel, on international air tickets, and on the use of credit cards), with a view to finding practicable modalities for their possible implementation.

114. The flow of foreign direct investments to many developing countries had increased substantially. In order to attract such flows, it was important to create an enabling environment and, even though many of the measures needed to create such an environment were beyond the control of

individual countries, it remained the responsibility of national Governments to formulate national policies and establish transparent processes and institutions to facilitate such flows. It should be recognized, however, that some developing countries, particularly among the least developed, had not been able so far to attract significant flows of foreign direct investment, which meant that for those countries official development assistance continued to be a key source of financing for development. Norway therefore called upon the donor community to increase its efforts to reach the targeted level of official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product. All donors should assume their responsibility in order to strengthen the relevance and impact of the United Nations system in the field of development and seek to provide it with sufficient funding on a predictable and stable basis.

115. **Mr. Zari Zare** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that operational activities for development were the most tangible manifestation of the United Nations endeavours in the development area; the developing countries had always found such activities to be a useful complement to their own efforts and remained hopeful that they would not suffer any impairment, even though the realities pointed in another direction. As stated in the Secretary-General's report on the reform of the United Nations (A/52/950), there was a general downward trend in the core resources contributed to United Nations funds and programmes. Even more disquieting was the fact that attention was being increasingly shifted away from long-term development to emergency relief operations. The report's conclusion was clear and categorical: the current funding modality for core resources was not generating the contributions required to meet the established programme targets and new requirements arising from the recent cycle of United Nations conferences.

116. Attention must be drawn in that connection to a number of criteria governing the financial dimension of operational activities, which were already established and had been reiterated, for example, in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 50/227. The funding of operational activities should remain voluntary and be focused on core resources. It should originate essentially from official sources and be multilateral, neutral, and universally accessible. It should also produce stable, secure and predictable levels of resources. Non-core resources could not and should not be regarded as a substitute for core resources. And a new system for the financing of core resources should not entail any new commitments for the developing countries.

117. The question of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries was very important and deserved to be dealt with as a separate agenda item. Development activities in general and operational activities in particular were valuable and important and should receive commensurate attention throughout the system. Every effort should be made to secure their coordinated, efficient and effective delivery. Delivery depended fundamentally on the provision of adequate resources and thus required the developed countries to meet the internationally agreed targets for ODA.

118. **Mr. Provencio** (Mexico) said that his country attached much importance to "South-South" cooperation and therefore believed that the San José Plan of Action was extremely relevant, for it marked the beginning of a new stage in South-South cooperation and replaced the Caracas Programme of Action, some of whose elements were already out of date. International cooperation for development was one of the seven constitutional principles guiding the foreign policy of Mexico, which was both a recipient and a donor of aid. His delegation joined with the other delegations which had stated their concern about the decline in ODA but emphasized that South-South cooperation, which should not replace but complement ODA, had a special feature which distinguished it from ODA: the fact that it depended solely on the developing countries themselves.

119. His country had considerable experience in that area. For example, since the early 1980s it had provided funding totalling more than $2 billion to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on terms more favourable than the ones prevailing in the international markets and had also rescheduled that debt on more favourable terms than the ones granted by the Paris Club. For Mexico, participation in South-South cooperation groups such as the Group of Fifteen and the Group of 24, etc., was extremely important.

120. With regard to paragraphs 4 and 5 of document A/52/402, where free trade agreements were concerned, transparency in the regulation of trade flows, certainty in the rules of the game, and fair arrangements for dispute settlement were of great importance for the developing countries. Furthermore, the Group of Three envisaged that in 2000 90 per cent of its trade would be tariff-free; therefore, in contrast to what was stated in paragraph 8 of the document, free trade would be a reality before 2005. And in contrast to what was stated in paragraph 10, the proposed free trade area of the Americas was an independent initiative, which had not flowed from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Lastly, the objective of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation process was to create a free trade area and not a "free trade and investment" area as stated in paragraph 12. Furthermore, that free trade area would come into force in 2010 for the developed

countries concerned but not until 2020 for the developing ones.

121. **Mr. Diseko** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the countries members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the character of southern Africa had changed vastly in recent years. It had now begun to experience the benefits of peace, unity and common purpose in building the future. Although the situation in Angola remained a source of concern, the countries of the region hoped that, with the support of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and the international community, a lasting solution to the problem would be found.

122. However, with the support of the United Nations system SADC had to redress the devastation of the region's economies and infrastructure following the years of conflict and natural disasters. Accordingly, substantial resources were still required to sustain the programmes of rehabilitation of the transport and communications network, for otherwise the Community's efforts to promote trade and investment in production would be impaired. Eradication of poverty and the problems associated with increasing levels of urbanization were further areas of concern.

123. Although available resources were limited owing to the economic problems of its member States, SADC had pressed on with its regional integration programme, which had been launched in July 1993. Seven protocols had been signed with a view to promoting the balanced and sustainable use of the region's energy sources, the sustainable development and management of international watercourses, the harmonization of transport, communications and meteorology regulations, the fight against illicit drug trafficking, and intra-regional and international trade.

124. Work was also in progress on other protocols on food, agriculture, and natural resources; a regional food security strategy had been formulated in that connection. At the same time SADC, which had signalled its commitment to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable sectors of its society, had adopted a declaration on "Gender and development" addressing the problem of the disparities between women and men. The scourge of HIV/AIDS was another issue of great concern to the Community, which had adopted a statement and a plan of action setting out responses to the problem.

125. Southern Africa had millions of landmines; in order to contribute to the solution of that problem SADC was drawing up a regional demining programme. In addition, in September 1997 the heads of State and Government of the SADC countries had adopted a declaration which would make a great contribution to securing regional and international support for the signature of the treaty on the total prohibition of anti-personnel landmines in Ottawa in December 1997.

126. Another matter of great concern was the possibility of droughts in 1997-1998 as a result of the re-emergence of the El Niño phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which would have an adverse impact on food production and water supply and management. SADC therefore appealed to the United Nations and the international community to provide generous support for the efforts to strengthen the capacity of the countries of southern Africa to deal with the problem of drought, to support the creation of development corridors, especially the Maputo corridor, to assist and support the region in its efforts to create a landmine-free zone, and to furnish appropriate financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the protocols which had been signed.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.